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Security Council

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19 March 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 19 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter dated 19 March 2001 from the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, regarding the United Nations-led peace process in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Peter **Chkheidze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-29407 (E) 190301

Annex to the letter dated 19 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am sincerely happy to once again be provided with an opportunity to address this distinguished forum and would like to express my deep appreciation for the special friendship and support you have shown towards Georgia and her problems.

This meeting closely echoes the spirit of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, where the international community most emphatically stressed the dangers that unresolved conflicts pose to the global peace and security.

The Millennium Summit was a clear indication that the international community is willing and ready to undertake the task of protecting the world from violence on whatever grounds it may occur — ethnic, territorial or religious.

Monumental efforts notwithstanding, neither the number of conflicts nor that of the resulting casualties has decreased in the past decade.

It is largely owing to the "frozen conflicts" that the plight of millions of refugees and displaced persons remains deplorable. Year after year these desperate people continue to be pushed ever closer to abandoning the last threads of hope. Needless to say, this is a problem fraught with dire global consequences.

I cannot think of an alternative to empathizing with the personal tragedy of every individual and applying joint efforts to overcome the common challenges.

By now, however, I must note with deepest regret that despite the numerous Security Council resolutions, the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, remains extremely tense, with the problem still unresolved. The peace process is essentially deadlocked.

Unfortunately, backed by foreign reactionary forces, the Abkhaz regime continues to stubbornly flout the peace process, and blatantly demonstrates its rigid, uncompromising stance.

The results — tens of thousands of desperate people evicted from their native hearths, tired of vain expectations of returning home — are totally inconsistent with the spirit of the new millennium.

On our part, we believe that further efforts ought to be channelled in two basic directions: reaching an agreement on the political status of Abkhazia, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and the unconditional and dignified return of all refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes.

Regarding the first issue, we hold the view that the United Nations should draft a document setting forth the basic principles on distribution of constitutional competencies between Tbilisi and Sukhumi, and prior to its presentation to the sides, the Security Council should deliberate upon the document and grant its approval.

It is also desirable that the Security Council deliberations on Abkhazia, Georgia, as well as the subsequent resolution, should require the sides to overcome the current impasse and achieve tangible progress on this issue. We believe that the document on separation of constitutional competencies should become a basis for the further process of negotiations.

Present arduous conditions and the highly uncertain future of over 300,000 refugees and internally displaced persons require our decisive action to ensure the fulfilment by the current Abkhaz regime of its responsibilities, which primarily consist in securing unconditional return of the displaced persons to their rightful places of residence. Moreover, by no means can there be a linkage between the issue of the political status of Abkhazia, Georgia and the inalienable right of the refugees and the internally displaced to return to their homes.

We hope that the increased interest of the international community directed towards Georgian problems will enable us to utilize all the resources necessary to promote the peace process, and confidence-building measures retain a significant place among them.

The Yalta Summit which was held with the genuine, friendly support of the Ukrainian Government, as well as the results of the respective meetings in Greece and Turkey, shows that direct contacts, including those between representatives of different layers of society, have an enormous potential. In the implementation of the decisions reached, goodwill is of paramount importance and its manifestation should be encouraged and, in many cases, rigorously required.

I would like to extend my particular thanks to the Government of Ukraine for the successful organization of the Yalta Summit.

In conclusion, I remain hopeful that the United Nations Security Council will continue to be active and alert with respect to the difficult situation in Georgia. I avail myself of this opportunity to once again express to you my most sincere gratitude and respect.

(*Signed*) Edward **Shevardnadze**

19 March 2001

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Security Council

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19 March 2001

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Letter dated 19 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to inform you that on 11 March 2001, the Mouvement de libération de Congo (MLC) rebels in the Democratic Republic of the Congo twice attacked the allied forces' ferry on re-supply mission from Mbandaka to Bolomba. During this attack, 23 allied members were injured. Again on 16 March 2001, the same rebel group attacked the allied forces' ferry from Bolomba to Mbandaka injuring three members. The Force Commander of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), General Diallo, has been informed about these violations.

This is a very serious development, which can put the Democratic Republic of the Congo peace process in jeopardy. It is a blatant violation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement (S/1999/815, annex), and the Kampala disengagement and redeployment plan, as well as the Harare sub-plans for disengagement and redeployment of forces. Furthermore, it is also a demonstration of bad faith on the part of MLC.

In this connection, I wish to request you to use your good offices and urge MLC to put an end to these unwarranted activities and contribute positively to efforts aimed at bringing about peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I request that you circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Martin **Andjaba**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

01-29421 (E) 190301

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Security Council

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20 March 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 19 March 2001 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter dated 19 March 2001 from the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, addressed to you with regard to the holding of the third Meeting on Confidence-building Measures between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides in Yalta, Ukraine, on 15 and 16 March 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Valeriy **Kuchinsky**
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

01-29510 (E) 200301 200301

Annex to the letter dated 19 March 2001 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

19 March 2001
Kiev

It is my sincere pleasure to have this opportunity to communicate with you on the occasion of the third Meeting on Confidence-building Measures between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides within the framework of the Geneva peace process under the auspices of the United Nations, which took place in Yalta, Ukraine, on 15 and 16 March this year, under the chairmanship of your Special Representative, Mr. Dieter Boden, and which, in my view, proved to be a successful one.

Ukraine took the initiative in holding this Meeting because the international community is interested in seeing the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict settled as soon as possible, and because our country is eager to facilitate this process to the extent possible.

Ukraine has also been guided by its position of principle regarding the need for greater attention to the settlement of the so-called "frozen" conflicts in the post-Soviet arena. That position has repeatedly been emphasized by Ukraine's representatives from the United Nations rostrum, for example, at the meeting of heads of State and Government of members of the Security Council, held on 7 September 2000.

I cannot hide my personal satisfaction that the results of the third Meeting of the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides have met our expectations. Its participants demonstrated goodwill, realism and a constructive approach.

The Meeting resulted in the signing of the Yalta Declaration of the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides and in the elaboration of the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides.

A good platform has been created for further progress in reaching mutual understanding and accord between the two Sides, and in fostering the Geneva peace process.

The Meeting of the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides, which took place in the territory of Ukraine, was an important event both for its participants and for our country itself. It demonstrated the parties' willingness to pursue the dialogue, but also their high level of confidence in Ukraine, which is determined to continue contributing to United Nations peacemaking efforts.

I hope that the Yalta Meeting has created a favourable atmosphere for the special meeting of the Security Council on the question of settling the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, on 21 March 2001.

I should also like to express my gratitude to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia, Mr. Boden, who put a lot of effort into securing the promising results of the Yalta Meeting.

(*Signed*) Leonid **Kuchma**

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Security Council

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20 March 2001
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 20 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 18 March 2001 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 1 to 6 March 2001 they carried out 233 sorties, 109 of them from Saudi Arabia, 75 from Kuwait and 49 from Turkey.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-29655 (E) 210301 210301

Annex to the identical letters dated 20 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 233 sorties in the period from 1 to 6 March 2001, 109 of them from Saudi Arabia, 75 from Kuwait and 49 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 49 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1235 hours on 1 March 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 10 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Dohuk, Baibo, Ayn Zalah, Irbil and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1355 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1115 hours on 2 March 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Zakho, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Irbil, Ayn Zalah and Dohuk areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1410 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1112 hours on 3 March 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 12 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Irbil and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 143 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1010 hours on 1 March 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 15 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 15 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Umm Qasr, Artawi, Basrah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Lasaf, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Nasiriyah, Rifa'i, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Ashbajah, Nukhayb, Hayy and Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1130 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0800 hours on 2 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 42 missions, 26 of

them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from the demilitarized zone with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Nu maniyah, Qal'at Salih, Shinafiyah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1130 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1145 hours on 3 March 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 missions, four of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory, by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Qurnah, Salman, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Jalibah, Rumaythah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1125 hours on 4 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Nukhayb, Safwan, Basrah, Jalibah, Artawi, Busayyah, Taqtaqanah, Rumaythah, Shinafiyah, Samawah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1245 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1130 hours on 5 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 17 missions, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 11 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ashbajah, Artawi and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1425 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1310 hours on 6 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 61 missions, 44 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 17 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Karbala', Hayy, Taqtaqanah, Qal'at Sukkar, Jalibah, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Salman, Diwaniyah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2145 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty,

independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British has made these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its call to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against Iraqi targets and installations, the Government of Iraq urges you to perform your assigned duties as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

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Security Council

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20 March 2001

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Letter dated 20 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the statement of Paskal Milo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, in his capacity as Chairman of the South-East European Cooperation Process, on the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (see annex).

I would kindly ask you to circulate the statement as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agim **Nesho**
Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Albania
to the United Nations

01-29634 (E) 200301

Annex to the letter dated 20 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania, H.E. Mr. Paskal Milo, Chairman-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process, about the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, H.E. Mr. Paskal Milo, Chairman-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), expresses his deep concern about recent developments in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The armed actions of Albanian extremist groups threaten the peace and stability of this country, disturbing as well the general situation in the region.

The Chairman-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process reaffirms his full support for the safeguards of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He appreciates the self-restraint of the Government in Skopje and the constructive attitude of all Albanian political parties in dealing with the crisis, and encourages them to advance ethnic coexistence through institutional solution of the existing problems.

The Chairman-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process strongly demands the immediate cessation of the armed actions. Political goals cannot be achieved through violence. Any legitimate demand of the Albanian community should be resolved by peaceful means and in a democratic way.

The Chairman-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process expresses his determination not to support and to condemn actions that damage the process of regional cooperation and their integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures. Any action opposing the spirit and the principles of the South-East European Cooperation Process is unacceptable.

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Security Council

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20 March 2001

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Letter dated 20 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to commend from the outset, the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his well-balanced report of 7 March 2001 to the Security Council (S/2001/202) on Ethiopia and Eritrea. His report clearly outlined the positive progress made so far: difficulties to be overcome, problems to be resolved and, above all, his fears for the peace process, especially if one of the parties does not expeditiously rearrange its forces for the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone. His recommendations on what needs to be done are put succinctly for Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Security Council and the friends of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) to act upon.

Overall, Ethiopia fully shares the Secretary-General's guarded optimism in resolving the difficulties and problems with the peace mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea. For our part, we are, as we have always been, prepared to continue in ensuring that the problems and difficulties faced by UNMEE and the peace process do not emanate from the Ethiopian side. In paragraph 47 of the report, the Secretary-General, after dwelling on the "potentially dangerous situation" arising from Eritrea's delay of rearranging its forces to allow for the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone, states: "In spite of the fact that overall cooperation between the parties and UNMEE has been satisfactory, a few important issues remain unresolved." Two such issues are mentioned:

(a) The granting to UNMEE by Ethiopia and Eritrea of "unimpeded and unconditional freedom of movement, including the establishment of the most practicable direct high-altitude flights between the two capitals". ***Ethiopia wishes to affirm its willingness to do just that.*** In other words, the Secretary-General's recommendation in paragraph 47 taken together with his clarification in paragraph 28 is fully acceptable to us. For the record, it must also be highlighted that the last time the Secretary-General reported to the Security Council (S/2001/45, para. 19) on this same matter, he had indicated that "the ... issue ... has been resolved". The first successful high-altitude and direct flight between Addis Ababa and Asmara was halted by the other party and not Ethiopia.

(b) The other important issue cited by the Secretary-General is that of the status-of-forces agreement. With regard to Ethiopia, the Secretary-General himself admits there are not many issues — as a matter of fact only two — to be resolved. He hoped that with flexibility on Ethiopia's part, "an agreement will be reached

01-29640 (E) 200301

soon". In all our negotiations so far with the Secretariat, we have shown a lot of flexibility. In this same spirit, we had put forth proposals on how to resolve this issue as well. The ball has been for some time now in the United Nations Secretariat's court. ***I urge them to move forward and conclude in signing the status-of-forces agreement this week.***

In a letter addressed to you, Mr. President (S/2001/229), the Permanent Representative of Eritrea, transmitting his Government's instructions, assured you that Eritrea "remains committed to respecting, fully and rigorously, all the agreements it has signed". He further indicated that "problems can and will be resolved if the goodwill and seriousness of my Government is reciprocated by the other party". These are solemn words. Normally solemn words one professes to be committed to, are respected and carried out. Unlike Eritrea, Ethiopia has a long track record of scrupulously respecting and carrying out agreements it has signed. We are equally insistent in holding others to implement what had been agreed upon. ***It is now for Eritrea to state, without fudging the issues, whether or not it accepts and is willing to implement the two recommendations of the Secretary-General cited above.***

More immediately, serious and pressing are the questions relating to the establishment of the Temporary Security Zone and information on minefields.

The Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea of 18 June 2000 committed both countries to carry out certain measures. Ethiopia was to redeploy its forces from positions taken after 6 February 1999 and which were not under its administration before 6 May 1998. This was done by 22 February 2001, four days earlier than was agreed upon by the UNMEE Military Coordination Commission. UNMEE verified this in its report (UNMEE/P10/PR/38) of 7 March 2001. The Force Commander, Maj. Gen. P. Cammaert, himself stated: "I am satisfied with verification of the southern boundary and can now confirm that the ***Ethiopian forces are outside the prospective Temporary Security Zone***" (*emphasis added*). For the Temporary Security Zone to be formally declared, the "goodwill and seriousness" of the other party is needed. They are supposed to be committed to keeping their forces "at a distance of 25 kilometres ... from positions to which Ethiopian forces" had redeployed. The Secretary-General was referring to this refusal by Eritrea, despite its stated intention to the contrary, as "a potentially dangerous situation, which should be expeditiously resolved". We thank the Security Council for also calling for "an expeditious completion of ... the rearrangement of forces necessary for the establishment" of the Temporary Security Zone. We very much hope that the other party does this so that UNMEE may verify the action. It may then be possible for UNMEE to work with all concerned on clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance. This would pave the way for the displaced population to return to their areas. On this issue of submitting information on minefields, Ethiopia handed over to UNMEE on 11 March 2001, 10 dangerous area survey reports from areas within the Temporary Security Zone. The UNMEE Mine Action Coordination Centre referred to this as "***the first significant handover of landmine information since UNMEE arrived in the region***". As I write these notes, I am informed that Eritrea has just submitted also information on minefields. This is welcome.

It is not my intention here to enter into unnecessary polemics (we have had enough of these) with my Eritrean counterpart. However, I would be remiss in my duties were I to ignore two of the many misleading statements contained in his

above-cited communication to the Council. He writes "Eritrea did not detain Ethiopian civilians." Thousands have been detained. They were not "trapped", as alleged by the Eritrean Government, but systematically rounded up from many towns, including Asmera. The detention and the mistreatment of Ethiopian civilians remains a serious concern to the Ethiopian Government. With regard to the Eritrean prisoners of war (no civilian is under Ethiopian detention), the International Committee of the Red Cross has been accorded access from the beginning of the conflict — something not done by Eritrea until much pressure was exerted by the international community.

The allegation of destroying homes and villages does not even warrant serious comment. It has no foundation. It is simply made to cover up for what the other side did to bustling towns like Zalambessa.

On the last point, of Ethiopia's challenge to one of the Commissioners appointed by Eritrea to the Boundary Commission, this is not the venue for airing and resolving the issue. Suffice it to say that, according to the Algiers Agreement of 12 December 2000, either party may challenge any of the Commissioners appointed by the other side. We have exercised that right. There are procedures and rules under which this challenge and any other will be dealt with.

I will conclude by reconfirming that Ethiopia has already carried out some of the recommendations put forward by the Secretary-General, and the urgings of the Security Council. We are, as I have stated above, ***ready to carry out the remaining ones***. In our case, implementing these depends on how quickly the United Nations Secretariat wants this done. Let the other party in the peace process go beyond rhetoric and truly implement what it committed itself to do.

I would be grateful were you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdulmejid **Hussein**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2001/251

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 20 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statements of the President of the Security Council of 12 and 16 March 2001 (S/PRST/2001/7 and S/PRST/2001/8) and to forward herewith the Conclusions of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia adopted at its session of 16, 17 and 18 March 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Naste **Calovski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-29628 (E) 200301

Annex to the letter dated 20 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On its session of 16, 17 and 18 March 2001, at which the information of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia about the current security situation in the Republic of Macedonia was discussed, the Assembly reached the following

Conclusions

1. The Assembly notes that the security situation in the Republic of Macedonia is deteriorating as a consequence of the armed activities of armed groups of extremists that question the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Macedonia.

2. The authorities of the Republic of Macedonia, the Assembly, the Government and defence-security structures will continue to follow the situation and will undertake adequate measures to secure peace and stability in the country and the security of all of its citizens. In accordance with the situation, these authorities will undertake urgent and efficient measures for impeding further escalation of the situation.

3. The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia appeals to international organizations to continue the unconditional support for the Republic of Macedonia in the preservation of its stability, territorial integrity and sovereignty, and to that end to provide the necessary assistance without the presence of military forces from neighbouring countries on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia.

4. The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia calls upon all political parties to refrain from any destructive scenarios and to direct their activities to the service of the State, peace, stability and democracy, as opposed to violence and ethnic hatred. The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia condemns the statements made in support of violence, considering that this does not contribute to the stabilization and normalization of the situation in the country.

5. The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia asks for greater presence and strong engagement of the international security force (KFOR) along the whole stretch of the northern border, which will substantially contribute to establishing full control of the border, which is in the interest of the stability of the Republic of Macedonia and the region.

6. The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia calls upon the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia not to leave their homes and not to succumb to disinformation about their lives and property being under threat, or to the pressure of military groups for recruitment of Macedonian citizens, by way of threats and promises of political success with bloodshed.

7. The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia will immediately intensify the broad political dialogue through the institutions of the system with all relevant political bodies in the country in order to reach a common language that will facilitate the settlement of all open problems in the Republic of Macedonia.

8. These Conclusions will be submitted to the President of the Republic of Macedonia, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Security Council

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21 March 2001
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 20 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you the position of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council concerning the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran, since 1971, of three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, Big Tumb, Little Tumb and Abu Musa. That position is reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, adopted at its seventy-eighth session, held in Riyadh on 17 March 2001. The Declaration reads as follows:

> "The Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council undertook a mandate from the Supreme Council to examine all available peaceful means of ensuring the restoration to the United Arab Emirates of its legitimate rights over three islands, Big Tumb, Little Tumb and Abu Musa, which are still under occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Ministerial Council took the view that the rejection by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the many peace initiatives aimed at settling the question of the three islands — most recently the efforts of the Tripartite Commission — is inconsistent with statements by the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding its readiness to engage in dialogue and put an end to the tension, and does not augur well for security and stability in the Arabian Gulf. Moreover, it is impeding the development of relations between the parties. Accordingly, the Ministerial Council is actively pursuing its mandate.
>
> The Council strongly objects to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is preparing to build housing and settle people on those three islands, with the aim of changing the size of the population and the demographic composition, contrary to the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Accordingly, the Council demands an immediate halt to such construction.
>
> The Council again reaffirmed its support for the rights of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands, Big Tumb, Little Tumb and Abu Musa, which are under occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran. It rejected the continuing occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of those islands, which belong to the United Arab Emirates. The Council also reaffirmed the full sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands, which it considers to be an indivisible part of the United Arab Emirates. It declared that the United Arab Emirates continues to preserve all its rights over the islands and that the

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Council does not recognize any sovereignty other than that of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands, their territorial waters, their airspace, their continental shelf and their exclusive economic zone.

The Council condemns the transgressions and military manoeuvres on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the three occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and in their territorial waters. It demands that the Islamic Republic of Iran put an end to such manoeuvres, which it regards as constituting not only acts of provocation that threaten security and stability in the Arabian Gulf, but also a source of deep concern and an impediment to confidence-building.

The Council further supports all the measures adopted by the United Arab Emirates to regain its sovereignty over the three islands by peaceful means, on the basis of the principle of collective security among the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. It appeals to the Islamic Republic of Iran to agree to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice, the organ that is competent to resolve border conflicts between States. Special mention should be made of the fact that the United Arab Emirates announced beforehand that it would accept arbitration by the International Court of Justice in the aforementioned dispute. The Court is an organ that has always enjoyed the confidence of many States in the settlement of border conflicts. Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran has, on more than one occasion, resorted to the Court in order to assert its rights."

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Mohammad J. **Samhan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2001/253

Security Council

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Letter dated 21 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Government of Sierra Leone on 20 March 2001 concerning the decision of the Government of Liberia to expel the Ambassador of Sierra Leone to Liberia, Kemoh Salia Bao (see annex I).

Attached also is a copy of a note verbale of 20 March from the Government of Sierra Leone to the Government of Liberia declaring the Chargé d'affaires of the Republic of Liberia, Samuel Peters, persona non grata (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ibrahim M. **Kamara**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 21 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Government statement

The Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone has learned with much dismay and regret about the decision of the Government of Liberia to expel Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Liberia, His Excellency Dr. Kemoh Salia Bao.

The Liberian Government has also directed that the Embassy and the Chancery presently located near Hotel Africa, be relocated within 30 days and that the premises be returned to the Government of Liberia. In addition, the Liberian Government proposes to restrict the movement of the Sierra Leonean diplomatic staff remaining in Monrovia to a 30-mile radius of the city.

The Government of Sierra Leone notes that all of these actions have been taken without any warning and constitute very serious unfriendly acts. The Government is of the opinion that these actions by the Liberian Government are not unconnected with the tremendous pressure being exerted by the international community regarding Liberia's support for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the illegal exploitation of our diamonds.

It will be recalled that since the outbreak of war in Sierra Leone a decade ago, the Republic of Sierra Leone has continued to maintain full diplomatic relations with Liberia at Ambassadorial level, although Liberia reduced its diplomatic representation in Sierra Leone to the level of Chargé d'affaires. The Government of Sierra Leone has maintained this level of representation in order to provide adequate protection for the large numbers of Sierra Leoneans, particularly refugees, living in Liberia.

It is also noteworthy that the Government of Sierra Leone has been very supportive of the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the international community in general, to restore lasting peace and security in the Mano River Union and in the West African subregion in general.

In the light of the current unfriendly acts by the Government of Liberia, the Government of Sierra Leone has responded by giving the Liberian Chargé d'affaires in Sierra Leone seven days, with effect from today, 20 March, to leave the country. In addition, the Government of Sierra Leone is considering other appropriate action, which will be made public in due course.

On the question of the closure of the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia by the Liberian Government, the Government of Sierra Leone has taken note and has taken appropriate action.

Annex II to the letter dated 21 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia and has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone has declared the Chargé d'affaires of the Republic of Liberia, Samuel Peters, persona non grata for acts incompatible with his diplomatic status.

In this regard, Samuel Peters must leave Sierra Leone within 7 (seven) days effective Tuesday, 20 March 2001.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia the assurances of its highest consideration.